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THE GARBAGE GANG™

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THE GARB

They're gross, they're mischievous, they're ugly. But underneath their unpleasant exteriors lie an inner beauty and lovableness that most so-called "beautiful people" will never have. They're The Garbage Gang — Ali Gator, Greaser Greg, Messy Tessy, Foul Phil, Windy Winston, Nat Nerd, Valerie Vomit — and they're more fun than a barrel of monkeys! These seven wild and crazy characters are also the stars of their very own movie. Our story begins with Dodger (played by

AGE GANG®

Mackenzie Astin), a normal kid, "Normie," who works for the mysterious Captain Manzini (played by Anthony Newly). Between falling for Tangerine and tangling with Juice and his thugs, Dodger has plenty of problems of his own. But when he unleashes The Garbage Gang, real trouble — and fun — begins! In the end, The Gang are heroes, proving that beauty really is only skin deep. But along the way, The Garbage Gang are certainly the prankish, fun-loving kids you know and love. So sit back and enjoy the show!

MACKENZIE ASTIN THE GANG'S FAVORITE "NORMIE"

The Garbage Gang are the nasty-but-lovable stars of this movie. But they couldn't get along without Dodger, the "Normie" who accidentally pops the lid off the garbage pail they're trapped inside. And little does innocent Dodger know just what sort of Pandora's Box he's opened! Nor does Dodger realize the wonderful impact The Gang will eventually have on his life.

For many reasons, 14-year-old Mackenzie Astin — he likes to be called Mack — is perfect to play the part of Dodger. He's not only adorably cute and a major teen idol, he's also a very talented young actor. Most people know him as Andy Moffat on the hit TV series *The Facts of Life*. Actually, Mack first caught the eye of millions of TV viewers in the fall of 1985, when he joined the *Facts of Life* cast in the recurring role of Andy. By popular demand, he became a regular on the series this year.

Mack was born on May 12, 1973, the son of veteran actors Patty Duke and John Astin. Mack decided at an early age to follow in the footsteps of his acting parents. At age eight, he made his professional acting debut in the TV movie *Lois Gibbs and the Love Canal*. He next appeared in an episode of the hit series *Hotel* with his mother. Mack went on to guest star in the short-lived series *Hail to the Chief* (starring Patty Duke as the President of the United States), *Finders of Lost Loves*, and another TV movie, *I Dream of Jeannie: 15 Years Later*, starring Barbara Eden.

(continued)

Mack graduated last June from St. Paul the Apostle School in Los Angeles, and he'll begin high school this fall. An active student and sports enthusiast, much of Mack's spare time is devoted to several anti-drug charities and organizations dedicated to world peace. Last year he appeared in the "Kidds for Kids in Africa" music video to help raise money for the USA for Africa Project.

Most of you are probably also familiar with Mack's older brother, actor Sean Astin, who has appeared in a number of TV movies and series, as well as in Steven Spielberg's summer of '85 blockbuster film *The Goonies*.

Mackenzie on the set of *The Facts of Life* in Australia, where they shot a special episode last season.

Photo courtesy NBC-TV

Rod Amateau, director of The Garbage Gang's movie, talks about the character Dodger and why Mack was so right for the part. "Dodger is a foster child in search of love and a family," says Amateau. "And it is through Captain Manzini and The Garbage Gang that he finds both. Mackenzie is a talented young actor. What made him right for the part of Dodger is the sensitive nature and vulnerability he brings to the character."

Mack is equally excited about making his first film. And he believes moviegoers will love Dodger. "I think kids my age are going to relate to Dodger," he says. "What happens to him happens to lots of kids. In the movie, Dodger falls head over heels for a beautiful girl named Tangerine, and he's blinded to the real truth of what she's all about: a user. He loses sight of who his real friends are, the ones who really care about him — The Garbage Gang. So he gets to learn a wonderful lesson about what true beauty is all about. And," Mack adds, "I think every kid would like to have a Captain Manzini in their lives. He's neat — and he really cares about Dodger."

Captain Manzini, Dodger's father figure and mentor, is played by the celebrated actor Anthony Newley, who has starred in movies, Broadway plays, and on TV. "Manzini is charming, mysterious, and prone to perform a magic trick when all else fails," says Newley. "He's basically a combination of Merlin the Magician and *Star Wars'* Obi Wan Kenobe — a delightful man who perhaps is several hundred years old."

So while you giggle to the grossness of The Garbage Gang, you're also sure to get a big kick out of Mackenzie Astin as Dodger. He's a heck of a "Normie!"

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KATIE BARBERI
A REAL BEAUTIFUL MEANY

Tangerine, Juice's nasty girlfriend who uses Dodger and The Garbage Gang, sure is a beauty. "But she's a real meany," says Katie Barberi, the lovely actress who plays Tangerine. "She's a fashion designer, and she's determined to work her way out of the slums." She convinces Dodger to have The Gang make her some outrageous fashions, but Tangerine takes all the credit. After Dodger and The Gang bust up her fashion show — as well as Juice and his punks — Tangerine tries to make amends. "She doesn't consider using Dodger is wrong until the end, when she sees his pain," says Katie. "She says she's sorry, but by that time it's too late." So Tangerine may not be that bad after all, but she sure does give "beautiful people" a bad name.

At 16, Katie is making her film debut. A straight-A student, she was "discovered" three years ago by a director during a trip to Los Angeles from her home in Reno, Nevada. She's appeared on TV's *Silver Spoons* and *Kids Incorporated*, and was a regular on The Disney Channel's *The Nanny*. She and Mackenzie were friends before the movie, and he recommended her for the role of Tangerine. What luck!

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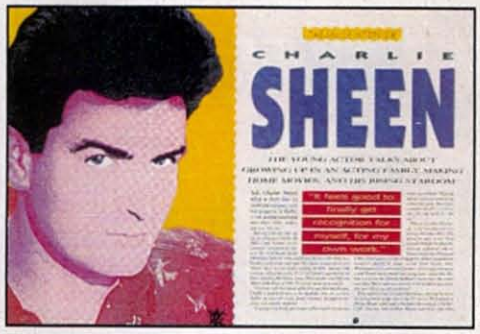

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ALI GATOR
A BITING SENSE OF HUMOR

Watch your toes, boys and girls, here comes Ali Gator! It doesn't matter how bad they smell or if they're with warts and bunions, Ali's a connoisseur of all types of toes, and takes a bite whenever he gets the chance. Half kid, half alligator, he has a face only a mother would love. . . on payday. But underneath his scaly skin is a very cool and pretty funny guy, the type you'd want with you if your motorcycle broke down in the world's nastiest neighborhood. That's exactly what happens to Ali and Greaser Greg in the movie. Ali wanders into a bar filled with burly bikers, cruising for a tempting toe or two. After he helps himself to a big, hairy one belonging to a particularly dangerous dude, Ali's about to become a wallet and matching pair of shoes. Ali and Greg go toe-to-toe with the smelly bikers, but they all end up good buddies. Off the movie set, Ali likes to kick back with a slimy peanut butter and toe-jam sandwich, washed down with an icy cold glass of toe-ma-toe juice. He often talks about his troubled childhood in the Everglades. He got yelled at by his nursery school teacher because all he wanted to do was play "This little piggie went to market." Grade school was rough, too. He got booted from the football team after the coach told him, "Get rid of that athlete's foot!" Turned out the athlete was the team's kicker, and the coach blew his top after Ali munched off his foot.

MESSY TESSY SHE "NOSE" BEST

Messy Tessy wears her problem on her sleeve...and her shirt and dress... She actually has quite a cute little schnoz, only it never stops running long enough so's you'd notice. And don't get too close anyhow, 'cause she doesn't really care *where* she wipes those dripping boogers. Truth is, despite her wonderfully big heart, Tessy is a major slob. If she's not rolling up a big green one, getting ready to fling it, she's probably picking some fresh ear wax or belly-button lint. Then again, Messy Tessy has found good uses for her body fluids. In the movie, for instance, she uses a little "nose glue" to get an old busted TV set working. Tessy is also a poet of sorts. She made up the following little rhyme one day when she was thinking about what makes her such a special kid:

There once was a girl named Tessy
Whose nose was very messy.
It wouldn't stop running,
But she was so cunning,
She just wiped it all over her dressy.

As you can see, her peculiar talent is nothing to sneeze at!

FOUL PHIL HE'LL LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS

Can you imagine a baby who prefers cod liver oil and Limburger cheese to a bottle? That's Foul Phil, whose breath has been declared a human health hazard. His halitosis is so bad they say that's what made all but one patch of his hair fall out. In fact, the Army's thinking about canning Phil's breath and using it as a secret weapon. But once you get around his personal air pollution (without passing out), Foul Phil is really a breath of fresh air. For example, when The Gang is busy making clothes for Dodger and Tangerine, Phil's breath is used to press the wrinkled duds. But while Phil might have a future in the dry cleaning business, he need not apply for a life guard's position. Just think what you'd do if Foul Phil rescued *you* and tried to apply mouth-to-mouth resuscitation?

As you might guess, Phil eats a pretty strict diet to maintain his mouth of horrors. He likes to start his day off with a heaping bowl of garlic cloves and spoiled milk. Lunch usually consists of a limburger cheese (his childhood fave) on moldy bread. And for dinner he prefers what he calls "knock-'em-dead" pizza, topped with rotten cheese, piles of onions, pepperoni, anchovies, and garlic. Check out his breath after this delicacy and you'll know how it got its name!

NAT NERD HE'S ALL WET

Look! Up on that garbage pile! It's a cockroach! It's a rat! No, it's just Nat Nerd playing King of the Hill. Dressed like a comic-book superhero, Nat is ready to conquer the world. One thing he's never been able to conquer, though, is his nasty skin problem. In fact, his face is often mistaken for a large pizza with pepperoni. Rumor has it, however, that Nat's crater skin is actually the unfortunate result of playing goalie for the dart team in kindergarten. But even if he's not the best-looking kid, Nat Nerd is a lot of fun and always ready to help out his fellow garbage gang members. In the movie, his prankish heroics help Dodger and Tangerine from being discovered together in the movie theater by Wally and Blythe. And in the final showdown with the bullies at the fashion show, Nat sees to it that Juice and his thugs are all washed up. So even if Nåt is a bit nerdy in his caped hero's outfit, the rest of The Garbage Gang thinks he's just super!

GPK

ALI GATOR

VALERIE VOMIT A REAL COOKIE TOSSER

What's warm, chunky, colorful, and has a special smell all its own? No, it's not a plate of spaghetti and meatballs. Give up? Throw up! No, not *you*. That's the *answer*! That's also the thing that gives Valerie Vomit her distinct personality — and aroma. Despite the fact she has a hard time keeping meals from coming up, Val's a down-to-earth gal, a romantic with a big heart. For example, though Capt. Manzini nearly tosses *his* cookies when Val offers him her wormy apple to munch on, he's quite touched by the gesture. And her crush on Dodger is really kinda cute, yet sucking face with Val would probably be like snuggling up to a pair of old sneakers. But let's not forget Valerie Vomit's other talent — designing and sewing incredible clothes for Dodger and Tangerine. Rumor has it she got started by designing New Wave barf bags for airlines, but she couldn't hold down the job 'cause she couldn't hold down her lunch. Oh well, her sewing wizardry is much more appreciated by The Garbage Gang, whose sharp threads she makes. So these days, the "Normie" fashion world makes Valerie Vomit sick to her stomach — and she couldn't be happier!

WINDY WINSTON LET'S CLEAR THE AIR... PLEASE

Tell Windy Winston he's full of beans, and you'd be absolutely right. And that's just one of the reasons he has a problem with gas, though really it's the rest of the world's problem. 'Cause when Winston breaks wind, hang onto your hats — and noses. The stink is only half of it; the clouds of smelly smoke that follow his sonic booms have often been mistaken for L.A. smog. Winston's Bronx Cheers, nonetheless, are used to their best advantage in The Gang's movie. They could easily stop a stampede of wild horses, so slowing down Juice and his henchpersons with a rear assault is a piece of cake — or at least a bowl of beans and franks.

As the story goes, Windy Winston's unique talents were discovered at a young age. A raw sewage dump had been closed near his home before officials realized little Winston was actually the cause of the putrid gases that were making everyone sick. Ever since, he's regularly been called in to help break up mobs of screaming fans at Menudo concerts. So remember, the next time you're tempted to blame your dog for stinking up the house, it might just be Windy Winston paying a visit to your neighborhood!

GREASER GREG MINI MACHO MAN

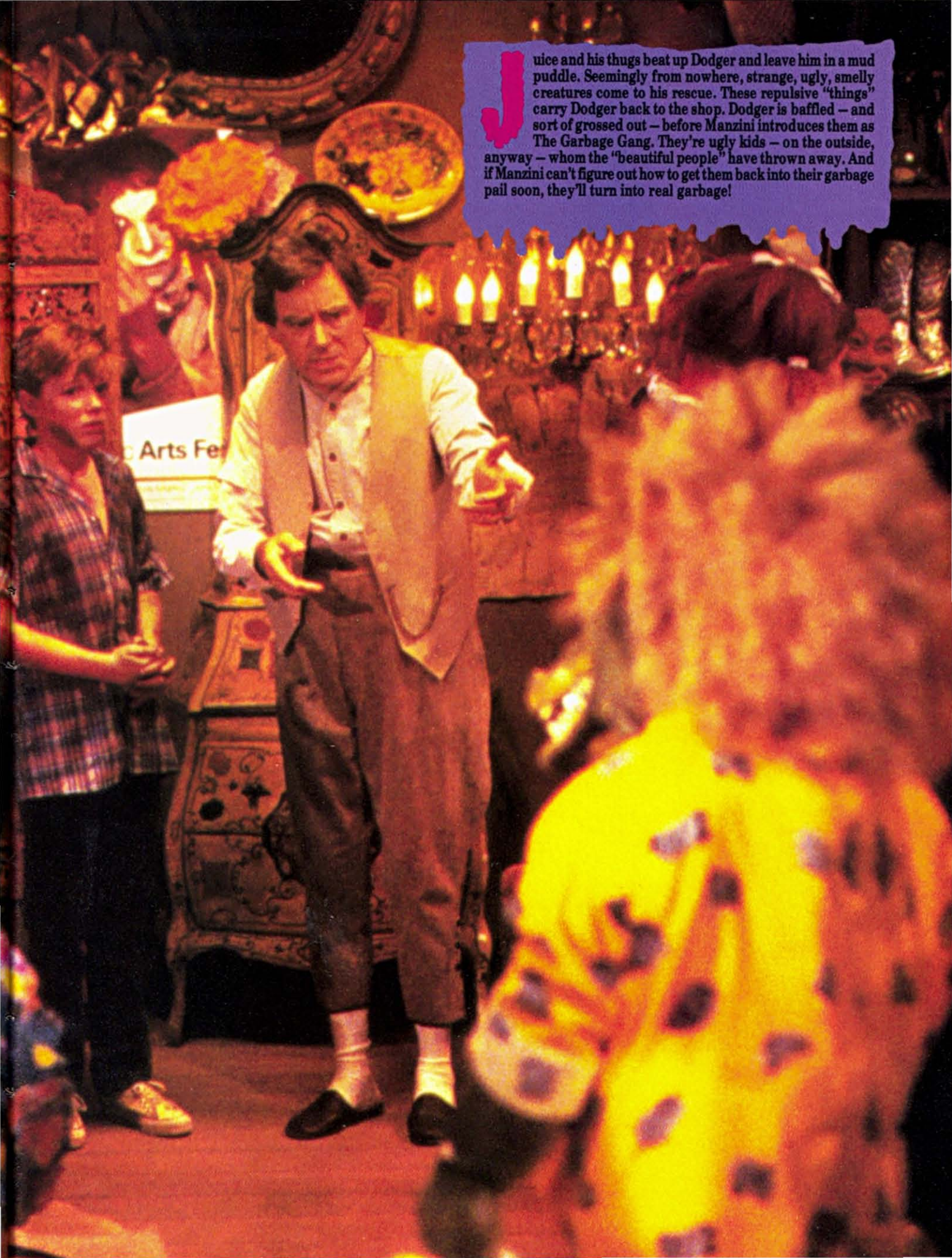
He may be short, but there's nothing small about Greaser Greg. Wearing his black leather jacket, chains, and greased-back hair (with chicken fat and ear wax), he is one nasty little dude. Just how tough is he? Well, it's said that at the same time he can hold off the rotten breath of Foul Phil *and* a big bang from Windy Winston. Now *that's* tough! In many ways, it's Greg's tough-as-nails attitude that keeps The Garbage Gang together when the going gets rough. He acts like a macho man with Dodger, too, but he's really rather fond of the "Normie." He's also, as you might guess, quite the ladies' man. And he makes no bones about it. "Chicks is chicks. An' I know chicks," he brags to Dodger at one point. Even if he is sweet on the dames, Greaser Greg is equally hard on the bad guys, Juice, Wally, and Blythe. After The Gang escapes from the State Home for the Ugly, it's Greg's idea to find the three punks and kick some butt.

But then, Greaser Greg was *born* tough. Why, when he was born and the doctor swatted his little behind, Greg turned around and slugged the doc. And you should have seen the tantrum he threw when the nurses said he couldn't wear a black leather diaper! Greg's teachers knew he was different, too. He was always rooting for the bad guys, like the witch in *Hansel and Gretel* and the Big Bad Wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*. "They're my kinda guys," he chuckles.

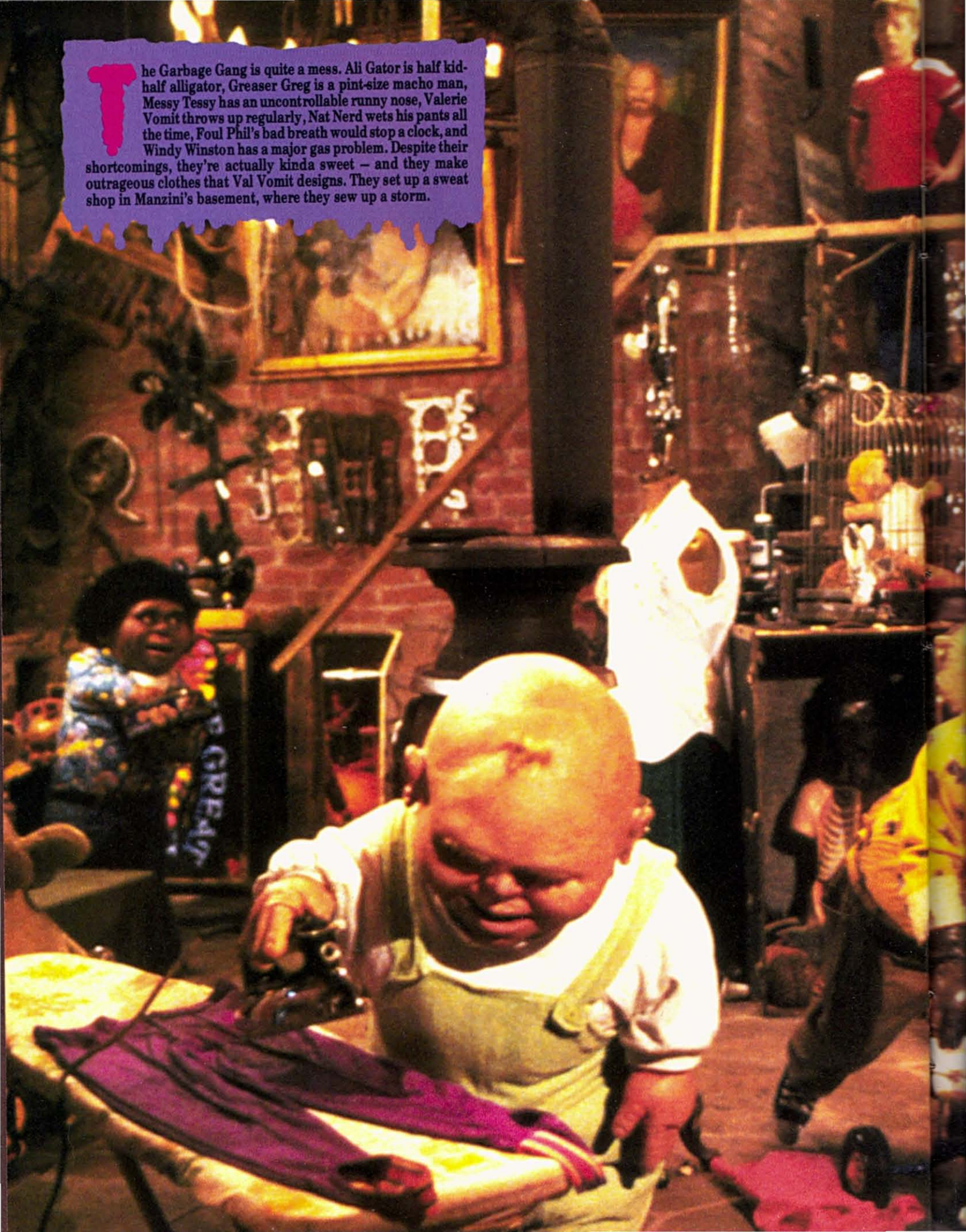
Our story begins with Dodger, an orphan who works in Captain Manzini's Antique Shop. Manzini, who's sort of a father figure to Dodger, lets him look at all the terrific things in his shop – except a mysterious garbage pail. What's inside?

Dodger falls head over heals for Tangerine, a teen beauty who lives across from the shop. She designs fabulous fashions. Dodger invites her into the shop to see if she can use some of Manzini's junk for her creations. Suddenly...

...Tangerine's bully boyfriend, Juice, and his punk friends, Blythe and Wally, bust into the shop. They rough up Dodger, but the mysterious garbage pail tumbles off a shelf in the process. What's that slimy, stinking ooze leaking out?!



Juice and his thugs beat up Dodger and leave him in a mud puddle. Seemingly from nowhere, strange, ugly, smelly creatures come to his rescue. These repulsive "things" carry Dodger back to the shop. Dodger is baffled – and sort of grossed out – before Manzini introduces them as The Garbage Gang. They're ugly kids – on the outside, anyway – whom the "beautiful people" have thrown away. And if Manzini can't figure out how to get them back into their garbage pail soon, they'll turn into real garbage!

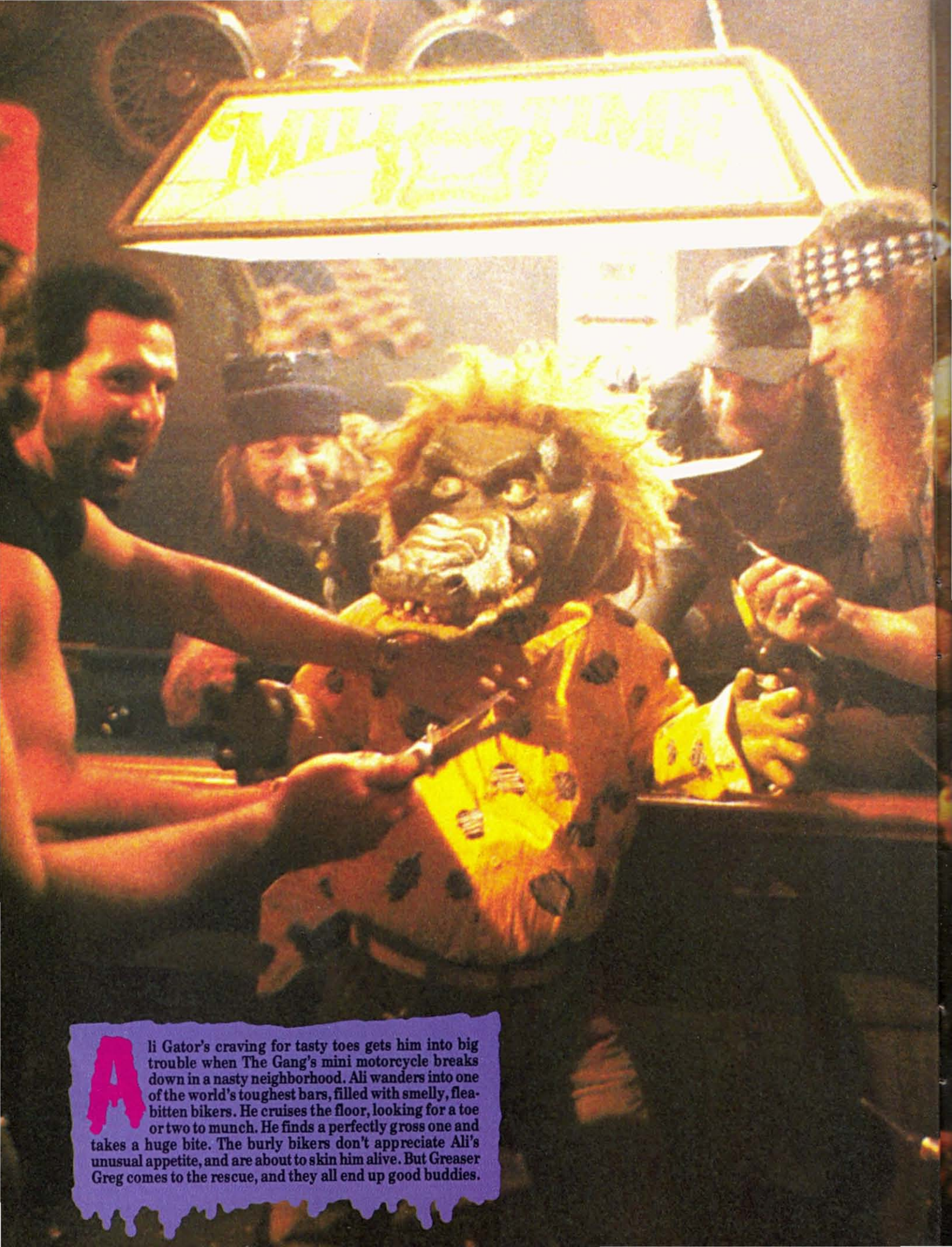


The Garbage Gang is quite a mess. Ali Gator is half kid-half alligator, Greaser Greg is a pint-size macho man, Messy Tessy has an uncontrollable runny nose, Valerie Vomit throws up regularly, Nat Nerd wets his pants all the time, Foul Phil's bad breath would stop a clock, and Windy Winston has a major gas problem. Despite their shortcomings, they're actually kinda sweet – and they make outrageous clothes that Val Vomit designs. They set up a sweat shop in Manzini's basement, where they sew up a storm.

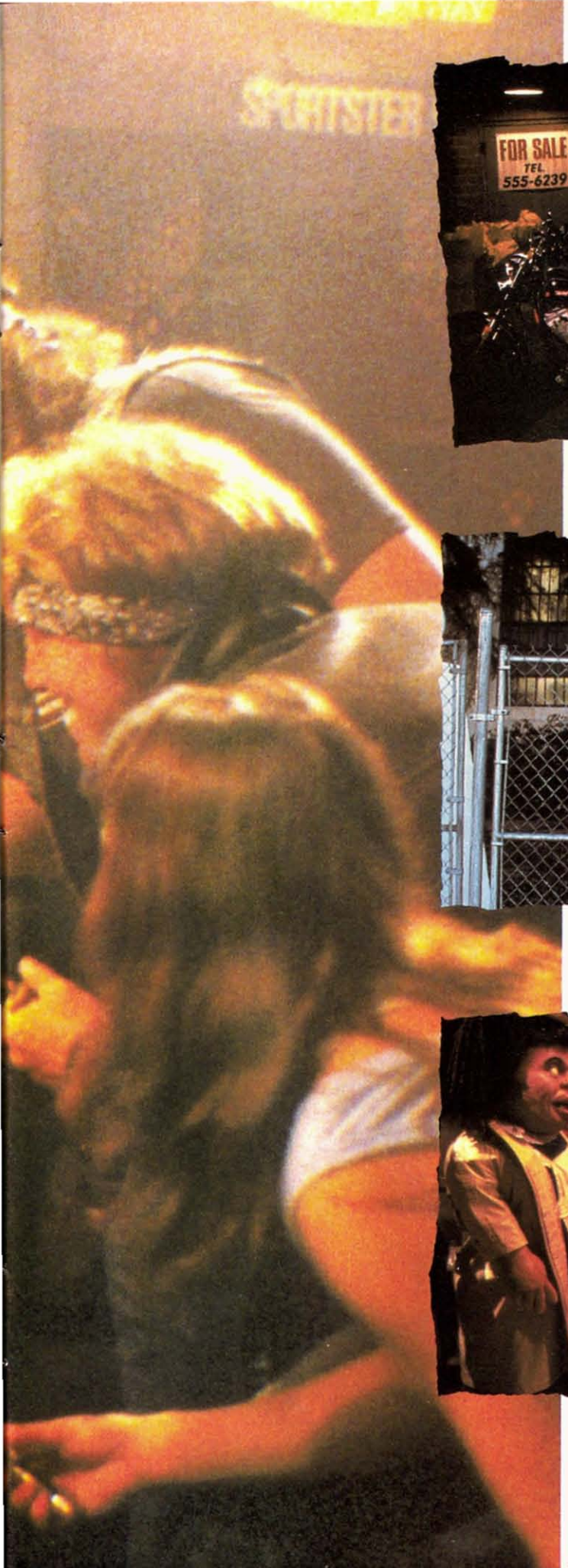
When Dodger shows up at Tangerine's pad wearing fancy duds The Gang made for him, Tangerine flips, especially when he tells her he made them. A nasty conniver, Tangerine sweet talks Dodger into making fashions for her to sell at clubs.

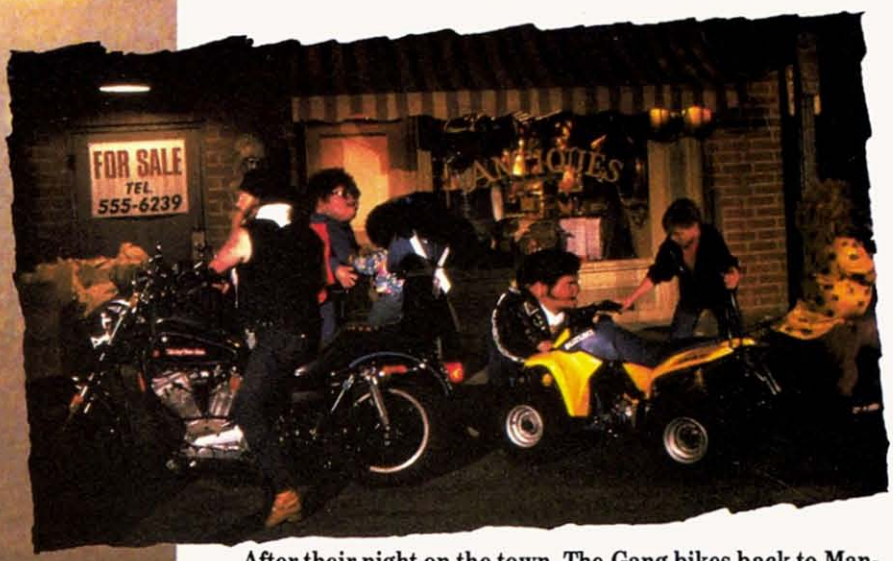
Besides being completely gross, The Garbage Gang loves to be mischievous, too. They sneak out of Manzini's basement one night and cause all sorts of trouble. Finally, they gather around some smelly trash cans for a junk food pig-out.

Rummaging around Manzini's basement, The Gang finds an old busted TV set. They're ready to watch some trashy TV shows, but they can't get the stupid boob tube to work. Messy Tessy applies a gob of "nose glue" and – *presto* – it's video!



Ali Gator's craving for tasty toes gets him into big trouble when The Gang's mini motorcycle breaks down in a nasty neighborhood. Ali wanders into one of the world's toughest bars, filled with smelly, flea-bitten bikers. He cruises the floor, looking for a toe or two to munch. He finds a perfectly gross one and takes a huge bite. The burly bikers don't appreciate Ali's unusual appetite, and are about to skin him alive. But Greaser Greg comes to the rescue, and they all end up good buddies.





After their night on the town, The Gang bikes back to Manzini's Antique Shop. Dodger can hardly believe his eyes when they roar up with their new pals – the horrible bikers from the bar! However, their friendship pays off later.

Dodger has promised The Gang that if they'll make the fashions for Tangerine, he'll try to find the State Home for the Ugly and help their fellow uglies escape. He and Captain Manzini find the awful place, but they can't get inside.

The Gang's talent for making groovy clothes comes in handy. They want to sneak out of Captain Manzini's basement, but they're afraid of being spotted. The solution? They disguise themselves in homemade trench coats and sunglasses.

The Garbage Gang busts their ugly little behinds to make all the clothes for Tangerine's fashion show. Now the kids want to go, but mean Tangerine says no. The Gang even agrees to go in disguise, as clowns. Dodger does his best to convince Tangerine, but her sweet talk tricks him once again. He locks The Gang in Manzini's basement.

Tangerine's double-crossing plot thickens when she gives Juice and his thugs the key to the basement. They bust into the shop and kidnap The Gang. The dirty deed is complete when The Gang is delivered to the State Home for the Ugly!

The Gang is locked inside their own cage at the State Home for the Ugly. The rest of the place is filled with others the "beautiful people" consider ugly, such as Abe Lincoln (Too Skinny), Santa Claus (Too Fat), and Kojak (Too Bald).

Tangerine is in her glory as the fashion show at McBundy's Department Store is about to begin. Dodger seems pretty happy, too, until Juice, Wally, and Blythe show up backstage. Poor Dodger still has no idea what's really going on.

All seems lost as The Garbage Gang remains locked in their cage at the State Home for the Ugly. They only have a half-hour left to find their pals before they turn into real garbage. "And we can't even save ourselves," says Greaser Greg. Foul Phil begins to cry,and the other kids try to comfort him. Meanwhile, Captain Manzini has recovered from the attack by Juice and his bullies. Without a moment to waste, he rushes off into the night, in search of his Garbage Gang friends.

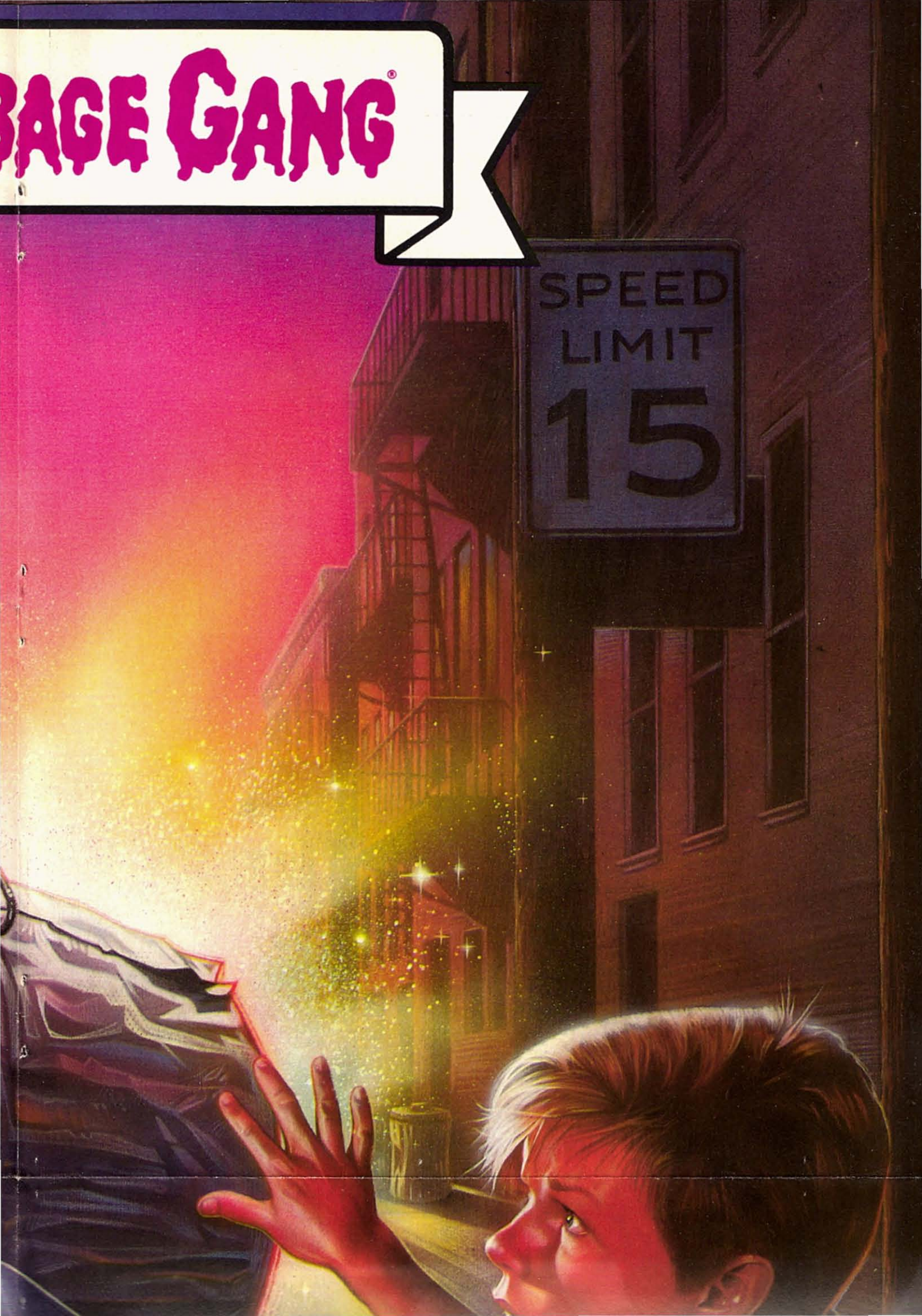
Dodger is crushed when he learns that Tangerine has been misleading him all along. Then he finds out what they've done with The Gang, and he takes a swing at Juice. But the punks overpower Dodger and toss him into a dumpster.

Dodger and Manzini break into the State Home for the Ugly and, with the bikers' help, free The Gang and their friends! Then they head for the fashion show. Combining their gross talents, The Gang has the last laugh on Juice and his thugs.

Back at Manzini's shop, the mysterious Captain has figured out how to get The Gang back inside their garbage pail. But while Dodger and Manzini talk about how they'll miss their little friends, The Gang sneaks away to cause more mischief!

"I laughed so hard, a pimple popped."
"I laughed, I cried, I threw up."
"The movie's as good as my breath is bad."
"This movie is pure magic,"
"It's a fact of life: This is a great movie!"
"It's more fun than a tub of toe-jam."
"It made me so happy, I wanted to bust someone's jaw."
"After seeing this movie, I'll never wipe my nose again."
"It's a total gasser!"
Anthony Newley
Nat Nerd
Valerie Vomit
Foul Phil
Ali Gator
Greaser Greg
Messy Tessie
Windy Win

HERE'S WHAT THE ACTORS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE GARBAGE GANG'S MOVIE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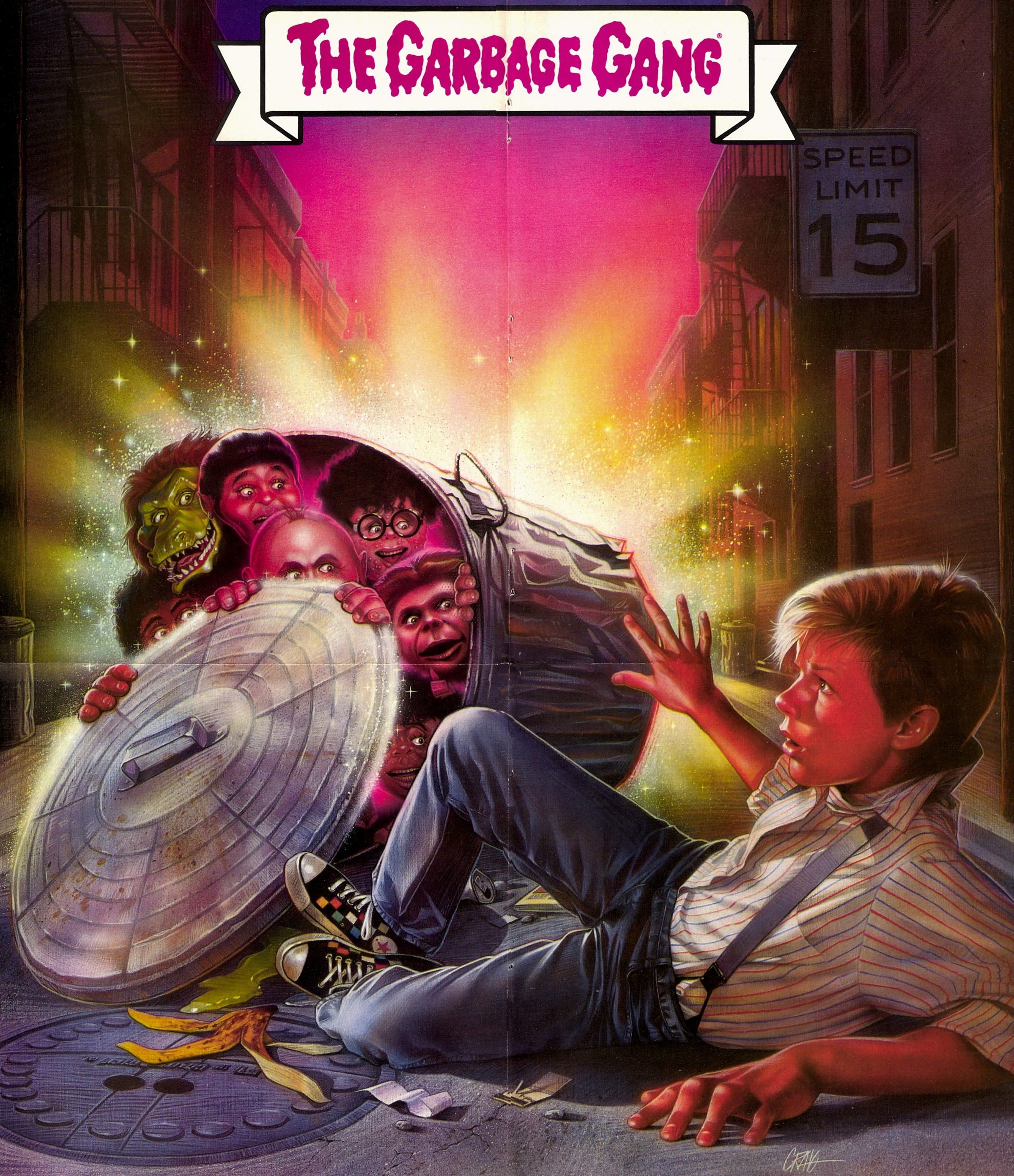

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